

Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 INT-08 OEP-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 RSR-01

/094 W

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R 120603 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8289

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2052

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, PK

SUBJECT: PENDING OIL EXPLORATION APPLICATIONS FOR AMOCO
AND MARATHON

REF: ISLAMABAD 2025

1. SUMMARY: GOP OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT PENDING
APPLICATIONS BY AMOCO AND MARATHON FOR PETROLEUM EXPLORATION
IN PAKISTAN MAY BE APPROVED IN NEAR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MEETING WITH GOP MINFIN MUBASHIR HASAN MARCH
10, CHARGE INQUIRED ABOUT LONG- PENDING AMOCO APPLICATION
FOR SECOND CONCESSION AREA, ON WHICH PROPOSED AGREEMENT
WAS INITIALED BY GOP OFFICIAL LAST AUGUST. CHARGE NOTED
THAT AMOCO HAS BEEN PLACED IN DIFFICULT POSITION BY GOP'S
FAILURE TO APPROVE AGREEMENT FORMALLY, AND FIRM HAS BEGUN
TO PHASE OUT ITS OPERATION IN PAKISTAN UNDER EXISTING
CONCESSION. (AMOCO IS SEEKING EXPLORATION RIGHTS FOR
ADDITIONAL AREA OF 20,000 SQUARE MILES.)

3. FINMIN CALLED IN GOP INDUSTRIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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SECRETARY JAFAREY FOR INFO ON WHERE AMOCO APPLICATION STOOD. JAFAREY ENVINCED SOME EMBARRASSMENT IN DELAY IN ACTING ON AMOCO APPLICATION. HE SAID THAT APPROVAL OF PENDING APPLICATION WOULD BRING EXPLORATION AREA ACCORDED TO AMOCO WELL OVER NORMAL CEILING PERMITTED TO ANY ONE FIRM BY GOP; HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT SOME SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE WOULD BE WORKED OUT THROUGH AMOCO'S RELINQUISHMENT OF PART ITS PRESENT AREA. JAFAREY THEN EXPRESSED PLEASURE OVER INDICATIONS THAT AMOCO WILL BE DRILLING IN COUPLE OF SITES IN ITS PRESENT AREA (REFTEL).

4. JAFAREY WENT ON TO NOTE THAT INTRA- GOP DISCUSSIONS ARE ABOUT AT END ON LONG- PENDING EXPLORATION APPLICATION BY MARATHON AND HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT MARATHON APPLICATION MIGHT BE READY FOR APPROVAL IN ABOUT A WEEK. PRESSED BY FINMIN ON AMOCO, JAFAREY OPINED AMOCO APPLICATION WAS ALSO ABOUT READY FOR HIGH- LEVEL GOP CONSIDERATION. HE AVOIDED EXPRESSING CLEAR POSITION ON AMOCO APPLICATION BUT IMPLIED HE NOW LOOKED ON IT FAVORABLY. DECONTROL 3/10/74.
SOBER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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